

Agency 13 - Department Of Education

Statutory Authority:

Nebraska Constitution, Articles VII, Sec. 2, 3, and 4. Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Chapter 79 (primarily) for State programs. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Chapter 84 (US Department of Education), Chapter 10 (US Department of Agriculture), and others for Federal programs.

The Nebraska Department of Education budget in detail can be accessed at www.nde.state.ne.us.

Vision Statement:

The well being of Nebraska is best served by providing a quality education for all students. Through the policy and program leadership of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, we must enable all Nebraska schools to demonstrate: Rigorous curriculum guided by standards and expectations for all student learning; Accountability for what is taught and what students learn; Safe, orderly, and drug free environments for learning; and Competent and caring educators in every classroom.

Mission Statement:

Mission: To Lead and Support the Preparation of All Nebraskans for Learning, Earning, and Living.

Principles: Honesty, Integrity, Trust, Quality Programs and Services; Visionary and Participatory Leadership; Positive Can-Do Attitude; Accountability for Results, Respect for Individuals and Individual Differences; Equity of Opportunities and Outcomes; Excellence Through Continuous Improvement, Well Qualified, Competent, Staff.

Goals:

Provide the "Best" Education for All ... for Life through Defining/Establishing Systems for: Accountability; Integrated Organizational Development; Preparation and Continuous Professional Development of Educators, Quality Services to Assure Equity, Consistency, and Customer Satisfaction; Effective Internal/External Communication; Shared Leadership for Developing and Achieving Goals; and Improving the Organizational Climate.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	594,189,271	742,884,354	748,259,598	729,161,740	752,812,191	750,793,307
Cash Fund	13,393,183	24,259,201	21,370,246	21,367,327	21,923,811	21,873,534
Federal Fund	153,061,872	176,430,872	180,411,925	179,715,338	185,623,075	184,319,835
Revolving Fund	386,771	639,162	665,769	656,435	676,114	676,257
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	761,031,097	944,213,589	950,707,538	930,900,840	961,035,191	957,662,933

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Program 025 - Education, Administration & Support

Program Objectives:

Program 025 is a body of activities in the Department which primarily address educational leadership, policy setting, technical assistance, and program administration. The activities include the State Board, the Commissioner's Office, and the school improvement activities of curriculum/instruction, accreditation, and staff development/instructional strategies. Also included are activities addressing early childhood, special populations, educational technology, teacher certification/adult education, school finance/organization, and all agency support functions. Each activity has specific objective and multiple performance measures.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	588,364,684	735,997,663	740,977,784	722,159,393	745,333,266	743,653,943
Cash Fund	2,750,177	6,089,873	3,121,858	3,100,441	3,140,602	3,073,819
Federal Fund	129,971,323	152,714,471	156,066,856	155,467,684	160,604,175	159,395,310
Revolving Fund	386,771	639,162	665,769	656,435	676,114	676,257
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	721,472,955	895,441,169	900,832,267	881,383,953	909,754,157	906,799,329

Performance Measures:

The program's primary focus through the next budget period will be the continued planning and implementation activities associated with K-12 education standards, assessment, and accountability including the impact these activities will have on teacher preparation. This major initiative addresses statewide school improvement through major educational policy reform, policy implementation having local control and conversation as the centerpiece, and capacity building to support the reform. Program resources are being reallocated to support this reform along with targeted budget adjustments.

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Program 161 - Excellence In Education

Program Objectives:

The Education Innovation Fund provides funding to enhance public education. Of the State Lottery proceeds, 13.375% go into this fund. The fund supports three programs which benefit Nebraska Schools. They are 1) the Mentor Teacher program, 2) the Competitive Incentive Grant program, and 3) the Quality Education Incentive Payment program. The Excellence in Education Council, appointed by the Governor, provides administrative oversight for the use of the fund. The Council makes funding recommendations to the Governor for the Competitive Incentive Grants and makes funding decisions for the Quality Education Incentive and Mentor Teacher Grant programs.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	8,699,051	16,738,406	17,236,777	17,239,265	17,747,800	17,756,663
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	8,699,051	16,738,406	17,236,777	17,239,265	17,747,800	17,756,663

Performance Measures:

The Mentor Teacher Program provides grants to school systems to support individuals entering the teaching profession. The Competitive Incentive Grant program funds school improvement planning and implementation of innovative programs and practices. The Quality Education Incentive Payment program provides funding to schools which meet "quality" education factors and are calculated on a per-student formula. The program's objectives are: 1) continue to refine the operation of the fund; 2) create policies and procedures for the quality incentive payments; 3) provide technical assistance to applicants and grantees; 4) monitor grantee progress; 5) report progress to the Excellence in Education Council; and 6) provide staff support to the Council.

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Program 351 - Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Program Objectives:

Vocational Rehabilitation is a comprehensive statewide employment program for Nebraskans who experience a significant physical, mental or cognitive disability. Program staff provides direct service in vocational evaluation, counseling, independent living and job placement, as well as purchasing rehabilitation services from community providers. Major program activities include: Employment-Improving the quantity and quality of employment outcomes; Community-Increasing responsibility and involvement in the various "communities" having a stake in vocational rehabilitation; Transition-promoting movement from school to appropriate post-school employment for students with disabilities.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	3,242,571	3,427,695	3,744,097	3,491,565	3,862,417	3,569,390
Cash Fund	403,938	608,897	600,000	608,897	620,000	608,897
Federal Fund	17,474,115	17,452,151	17,975,716	17,805,096	18,524,994	18,229,825
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	21,120,624	21,488,743	22,319,813	21,905,558	23,007,411	22,408,112

Performance Measures:

The major goal of Vocational Rehabilitation is to increase economic self-sufficiency through integrated competitive, self and business enterprise employment paying the full time minimum wage equivalent or better. Key objectives include: (1) Are people becoming employed? (2) Do they receive a living wage? (3) Are persons satisfied with services? (4) Are we serving people who need our services? Outcome measures for FY99 include: (1) serve 12,800 individuals, (2) obtain employment for 1,700 individuals, (3) provide supported employment services for 1,300 persons, and (4) serve 2,700 students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to work and adult life.

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Program 352 - Disability Determination Section

Program Objectives:

The Disability Determination Section (DDS), makes determinations on behalf of the Social Security Administration regarding the eligibility of Nebraska residents for disability benefits under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs. Applications are forwarded from Social Security field offices in Nebraska to the DDS, which then obtains sufficient medical and vocational documentation to prepare, make, and record a decision on each applicant's eligibility for benefits.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	5,544,874	6,198,746	6,348,736	6,422,395	6,472,843	6,674,537
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	5,544,874	6,198,746	6,348,736	6,422,395	6,472,843	6,674,537

Performance Measures:

1. To control the cost of thorough case documentation by adjudicating as many cases as possible on the basis of existing medical evidence on record.
2. To maintain a medical examination purchase rate of less than 50% of all cases.
3. To accomplish any changes in Congressional or judicial mandates while not compromising the levels of public service described above.

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Program 401 - Services For The Deaf & Hard Of Hearing

Program Objectives:

Through this program, the Department has established four regional/statewide programs to provide educational alternatives and options for serving families and children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The programs build upon existing services, promote the creating of new cooperative agreements among service providers, and extend and support outreach services in all areas of the State. The Department has entered into an agreement with the Iowa School for the Deaf to provide residential school services (educational and residential). In collaboration with other agencies, service providers and institutions of higher education, the Department's Office of Programs for Children with Sensory impairments provides training to assist educational sign language interpreters meet state standards.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	1,270,379	2,035,000	2,095,482	2,038,179	2,155,844	2,042,222
Cash Fund	1,257,082	415,000	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	62,810	45,341	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,590,271	2,495,341	2,095,482	2,038,179	2,155,844	2,042,222

Performance Measures:

Develop regional programs and cooperative relationships with school districts/approved cooperatives, regional educational service units and consortiums of schools to 1) maximize resources in providing programs and services for children, 2) provide a network of support and services statewide, 3) reduce costs now in order to maintain future funding, 4) build a base of quality programs from which a magnet program(s) can evolve, 5) reinforce the belief that children who are deaf and hard of hearing benefit from education with hearing and deaf and hard of hearing peers, and 6) continue state leadership and support for residential programs and services where necessary.

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Program 402 - School For The Visually Handicapped

Program Objectives:

In collaboration with school districts/approved cooperatives, the program provides educational and residential services for children who are blind or visually impaired and their families. The education services may be provided on campus or through the outreach program. Program services include academic programs, adaptive physical education, assistive technology, audiology, augmentative communication, Braille (reading and writing), Braille music, Braille transcription services, computer literacy, diagnostic assessment, daily living skills training, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility, outreach services, physical therapy, short term placements, social skills training, speech and language therapy, Summer enrichment programs, transitional living programs, and vocational training.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	1,311,637	1,423,996	1,442,235	1,472,603	1,460,664	1,527,752
Cash Fund	214,234	322,428	323,357	331,610	324,683	344,030
Federal Fund	8,750	20,163	20,617	20,163	21,063	20,163
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,534,621	1,766,587	1,786,209	1,824,376	1,806,410	1,891,945

Performance Measures:

A short list of some of the program's goals/activities include: teaching children who are blind or partially sighted in a day school and residential environment; providing outreach services to school districts and parents; providing individualized educational programming for children; providing residential programming; developing and providing educational and residential programming for children with visual impairments or blindness and who verify with additional disabilities including impairments classified as hearing, orthopedic, behavior, speech-language, cognitive, and other health related including autism; supporting the UNL Endorsement Program for teachers of the visually impaired; serving as a State instructional resource center for the visually impaired; coordinating efforts to update State verification standards for children with visual impairments or blindness; coordinating efforts to keep the certification standards for teachers of the visually impaired in line with expectations of the field, based on standards established by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

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Program 614 - Professional Practices Commission

Program Objectives:

The Professional Practices Commission is composed of twelve members of the education profession appointed by the Governor. The Commission is charged with advising the State Board of Education regarding rules and regulations for the standards of ethics and the competency for Nebraska public school educators, promoting understanding of and adherence to the standards, and providing an orderly method, by use of the hearing process, of resolving disputes arising over alleged failure of an educator to adhere to the standards. Disciplinary action includes admonishment, warning, reprimand, or recommendation to the State Board of Education for suspension or revocation of the educator's certificate.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	68,701	84,597	88,254	87,114	90,726	90,125
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	68,701	84,597	88,254	87,114	90,726	90,125

Performance Measures:

Hold hearings within six weeks of the filing of a petition by the Commissioner of Education. Send two or more Commissioners to the National Judicial College's Administrative Law Judge Training courses each year. Distribute pamphlets on the code of ethics and standards of practices to all teacher training institutions and schools who request them. Make presentations each year to lay and/or professional groups. Update computer hardware, software, and other communications equipment as needed to ensure that the Commission's ability to communicate with other educational entities and the public are compatible and current. Expand and develop positive relationships with the various agencies and professional groups in the field of education. Work with the Legislature to ensure that the Commission's revenues are sufficient to provide for the continuing viability of the Commission's statutory requirements.